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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/000,153	12/04/2001	Toshio Tanahashi	2000-369354US	8246

21254 7590 03/18/2005

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EXAMINER

GHULAMALI, QUTBUDDIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2637

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/000,153

Applicant(s)

TANAHASHI, TOSHIO

Examiner

Qutub Ghulamali

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/4/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: The abbreviation "DLL" in claim 1, line 9, must be spelled-out. Appropriate correction is required.
2. Claim 1, line 2, after "comprising", insert --:-- . Appropriate correction is required.
3. Claim 5, line 8. It is not clear what "or 1/" means. Appropriate correction is required.
4. Claim 10, line 8, page 89, replace ":" with a --:--.
5. Claim 10, line 14, page 89, after ";" delete "and".
6. Claim 10, line 9, page 90, after ";" delete "and".
7. Claim 11, line 25, page 91, after "data" delete "(").
8. Claim 11, line 6, page 92, replace "eachoutput" with --each output--.
9. Claim 17, lines 8, page 107, after "that" delete ":".

The above are some of the objections that have been noted. Other claims in the lengthy specification have not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors related to claims 10, 11, 15 17, 21 and 24. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Specification

10. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract of the disclosure refers to various elements in the drawings. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

11. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

12. Claims 3, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
13. Claim 3 recites the limitation "the above input-parallel" in lines 11-12. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
14. As per claim 17, claim 17 recites the limitation "the former-step flip-flops" in line 7-8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
15. As per claim 17, claim 17 recites the limitation "the other conditions" in lines 19-20 and 25-26. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

16. Independent claims 1 and 3 and dependents claims 2, 4-24 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objections and rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112,

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2nd paragraph, and all minor objections identified herein and by the applicant in the next office action as set forth in this Office action.

Conclusion

17. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patents:

Hassoun et al (US 2001/0033630) shows method and apparatus for clock distribution.

Young et al (USP 6,775,342) discloses a digital phase shifter.

Liepe (USP 6,788,754) discloses a data processing system with distributed clocks:

Okubo (USP 6,522,684) shows a DLL phase correlation system.

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Qutub Ghulamali whose telephone number is (571) 272-3014.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



QG.

March 14, 2005.



JAY K. PATEL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER